

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Mixed Year Group Policy

The Headteacher will arrange classes following the priority order set out in the Governors' Mixed Year Group Policy, which is:

- 1st That no class containing KS1 pupils will go over 30 children in keeping with national guidelines.
- 2nd Establishing the class based on the children's age.
- 3rd That there are a minimum of 4 children from a single age group in a mixed-age class.
- 4th Where children have identified Special Educational Needs that require the Headteacher to exercise discretion in the best interest of the children concerned.
- 5th Gender – No **one** girl or boy should be separated from their year group/ previous class group.

How are children taught in a mixed year class?

- Teachers will ensure that all children work within programmes suitable for their age, aptitude and ability. Your child will not be 'held back' or 'struggle to keep up' in any class.
- All our teachers are trained to work with mixed ability classes whether in a straight year group or in a mixed year group class.
- In all primary classes there are wide ranges of abilities and all children will learn in different ways, responding to a variety of methods and resources. Teachers are able to adapt to the different needs within any class and plan accordingly.
- Programmes and schemes of work are compiled to suit the development needs of all learners in different groupings.
- There is no evidence to support the view that the performance of children in mixed age classes is either above or below that of pupils in single-age classes. There is however some evidence to show that pupils in mixed year classes gain socially.

When are classes formed?

Classes will be formed in the summer term for the coming school year and pupils and parents will be informed as quickly as possible.

Will the classes remain the same over a number of school years?

Not necessarily. Each year, the Headteacher has to consider the whole school roll, year group numbers, staffing allocations and continuity of learning.

Will there be opportunities for children to mix with friends in other classes?

Yes. Opportunities exist at break times, lunch times and during extra-curricular activities.

What if I am concerned about the class to which my child has been allocated? Concerns should be shared with the Headteacher who will be able to reassure you about your child's allocated class.

May I refuse to have my child in a class?

Generally, no. However, whilst there is no formal right to appeal against a decision on a child joining a mixed age class, we will always provide parents with the reasons for the establishment of the mixed age class and the Headteacher's rationale as to how pupils were allocated to a class.

If a parent feels that the school has not adhered to the Mixed Year Group Policy they can raise this in the first instance with the Headteacher and, if still not satisfied, they should raise their concerns with the school's Governing Body.